

Licensure of an independent social worker	The masters of social work degree	Licensed Independent Social Workers
<p>To become an LISW, an applicant must:</p> <p>Possess a master’s degree in social work from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education; or</p> <p>Possess a doctoral degree in social work from a college or university approved by the board of social work at the time of graduation.</p> <p>Have supervised professional practice consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The equivalent of two years of full-time, or 4,000 hours between 2-6 years, post-master’s social work degree practice at the master’s level performing psychosocial assessment, diagnosis and treatment. • Have at least 110 hours of supervision from an LISW, over a two year period. • Include at least one component of the diagnostic practice, the identification of specific mental or emotional disorders or conditions demonstrating a working knowledge of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association (DSM). • Include the provision of treatment, include but not limit to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evaluation of symptoms and behaviors • effects of the environment on behavior • psychosocial therapy with individuals, couples, families, or groups • establishment of treatment goals • differential treatment planning. 	<p>The four universities offering MSW programs in Iowa require 60-64 credit hours for graduation.</p> <p>MSW students complete a minimum of 900 hours in field experience.</p> <p>Graduates from a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are able to utilize social work research and respond to changing practice contexts. • Are able to effectively engage with members of diverse populations and carry out appropriate assessments and interventions. • Know how to apply ethical principles and critical thinking to social work practice. 	<p>There are 1,966 active licensed independent social workers in the state of Iowa.</p> <p>In accordance with the Iowa code, LISWs are permitted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide psychosocial assessment, diagnosis, and treatment, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ performance of psychosocial histories, ○ problem identification and evaluation of symptoms and behavior, ○ assessment of psychosocial strengths and weaknesses, ○ effects of the environment on behavior, • Psychosocial therapy with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ individuals ○ couples ○ families ○ groups • Establishment of treatment goals and monitoring progress, • Differential treatment planning • Interdisciplinary consultation and collaboration.